

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 4-5, 9-12, and 20-25.

Amend the following claims as indicated:

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A1
1. (Once Amended) An oligonucleotide primer having up to 40 bases and comprising the sequence SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:15; or SEQ ID NO:16.

13. (Once Amended) A method of detecting bacteria in a liquid or liquified sample by polymerase chain reaction, comprising:

A2
providing a liquid or liquified sample;
recovering bacteria from the liquid or liquified sample;
lysing the bacteria to provide a DNA sample;
selecting a target gene and selecting a target DNA sequence in the target gene;
incubating the DNA sample under amplification conditions with a DNA polymerase and a primer pair for amplifying the target DNA sequence; and
detecting the presence of amplified DNA as an indication of the presence of bacteria carrying the selected target DNA sequence, wherein the target gene is the *lamB* gene of *Escherichia coli*.